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MORTALITY FROM CANCER: 1920.

The Department of Commerce, through the Bureau of the Census, announces that nearly 73,000 deaths were due to cancer in the death registration area of the United States in 1920, and, if the rest of the United States had as many deaths from this cause in proportion to the population, the total number of deaths from cancer in the entire United States for 1920 was 89,000, while for 1919 the number is estimated as 84,000, or 5,000 less than for 1920.

The trend of the cancer death rate is upward, the rate for 1920 being higher than that for any earlier year in 22 of the 33 States for which rates are shown in the following table. The cancer death rate in the registration area in 1920 was 83.4 per 100,000 population, against 80.5 per 100,000 population for 1919. In comparing the death rate from cancer in one State with that in another, the bureau uses "adjusted" rates in order to make allowance for differences in the age and the sex distribution of the population, because, generally speaking, only persons in middle life and old age have cancer, so that a State with many old persons may be expected to have more deaths from cancer than a State with comparatively few old persons.

The highest "adjusted" cancer rate for 1920 is 98 per 100,000 population for the State of Massachusetts, and the lowest is 45.9 per 100,000 population for the State of South Carolina.

For a few States adjusted rates have been calculated separately for the white and colored population. In this group of States the highest adjusted cancer rate for the white population is 92.5 per 100,000 population for New York and the highest rate for the colored population is 82.2 per 100,000 population for Pennsylvania. The lowest adjusted cancer rate for the white population is 47.6 for Mississippi, and the lowest for the colored population is 38.5 for South Carolina.

Summarized briefly, the adjusted rates show that the Northern States have comparatively high and the Southern States comparatively low cancer mortality, while there is little difference between the adjusted cancer rates of the white and colored races of the same States. In other words, the white and colored races seem equally susceptible to cancer, but both races seem less susceptible in the South than in the North.

Deaths and death rates from cancer and other malignant tumors in the registration area (exclusive of Hawaii) and in the registration States: 1916-1920.

Area.	Number of deaths.			Ad-justed rate, 1920.	Rate per 100,000 population.				
	1920	1919	1918		1920	1919	1918	1917	1916
Registration area.....	72,931	68,551	65,340	(1)	83.4	80.5	80.3	82.0	82.1
Registration states ² (1916)...	60,656	57,775	56,081	(1)	86.3	83.4	82.1	82.7	81.8
California.....	3,800	3,553	3,308	87.4	109.2	105.3	101.3	100.8	95.9
Colorado.....	691	645	704	71.6	73.0	69.2	76.7	69.1	64.7
Connecticut.....	1,403	1,290	1,259	92.9	100.6	94.4	94.0	92.3	90.6
Delaware.....	198	191	(8)	75.3	88.4	86.1	(8)	(8)	(8)
Florida (total).....	510	464	(8)	57.0	52.1	48.5	(8)	(8)	(8)
White.....	384	371		58.3	59.2	59.1			
Colored.....	126	93		50.2	38.0	28.2			
Illinois.....	5,991	5,646	5,226	87.7	91.8	87.6	82.2	(8)	(8)
Indiana.....	2,645	2,551	2,568	72.9	89.9	87.4	88.7	88.7	84.3
Kansas.....	1,283	1,222	1,280	63.5	72.4	69.2	72.8	71.9	72.4
Kentucky (total).....	1,364	1,267	1,273	57.8	56.3	52.6	53.1	54.1	51.2
White.....	1,222	1,121	1,143	57.7	55.8	51.6	53.0	53.4	51.2
Colored.....	142	146	130	57.1	60.5	61.5	54.2	59.7	50.9
Louisiana (total).....	883	889	874	62.4	49.2	49.6	49.2	(8)	(8)
White.....	573	596	567	65.2	52.3	54.7	52.9		
Colored.....	310	293	307	68.0	44.2	41.7	43.6		
Maine.....	942	891	841	85.3	122.4	116.2	110.1	108.1	115.2
Maryland (total).....	1,372	1,263	1,199	86.8	94.1	87.6	84.1	87.7	85.7
White.....	1,200	1,107	1,063	88.3	99.0	92.4	89.9	92.8	91.8
Colored.....	172	156	136	76.7	70.0	63.9	56.0	62.9	56.5
Massachusetts.....	4,469	4,097	4,107	98.0	115.3	107.0	108.7	109.7	110.4
Michigan.....	3,099	2,970	2,896	78.1	83.5	81.9	81.9	79.9	80.4
Minnesota.....	2,293	2,113	1,947	92.2	95.4	89.1	83.2	83.9	86.3
Mississippi (total).....	686	673	(8)	48.0	38.3	37.6	(8)	(8)	(8)
White.....	348	365		47.6	40.6	42.9			
Colored.....	338	308		43.3	36.2	32.7			
Missouri.....	2,630	2,545	2,439	67.6	77.1	74.9	73.5	75.1	74.9
Montana.....	282	302	279	62.1	50.6	55.9	53.4	55.1	50.8
Nebraska.....	999	(8)	(8)	74.4	76.7	(8)	(8)	(8)	(8)
New Hampshire.....	521	480	479	79.5	117.4	108.5	108.6	106.4	112.4
New Jersey.....	2,760	2,725	2,485	87.0	86.6	87.2	81.2	84.4	82.7
New York (total).....	10,554	10,186	9,918	92.4	101.0	98.7	97.3	97.3	95.2
White.....	10,414	10,025	9,783	92.5	101.8	99.2	98.0	97.8	95.9
Colored.....	140	161	135	78.2	64.6	76.7	66.5	74.5	62.9
North Carolina (total).....	1,017	1,003	1,073	49.7	39.5	39.5	42.8	42.4	44.5
White.....	767	745	784	51.1	42.6	42.1	45.1	45.4	47.2
Colored.....	250	258	289	44.5	32.1	33.4	37.8	35.5	38.7
Ohio.....	5,171	4,892	4,800	77.8	89.0	85.7	85.6	87.0	86.9
Oregon.....	734	685	646	79.4	93.0	88.1	84.3	(8)	(8)
Pennsylvania (total).....	7,315	7,007	6,698	82.7	83.4	80.9	78.3	80.9	78.3
White.....	7,120	6,845	6,521	82.5	83.9	81.7	78.7	81.4	78.7
Colored.....	195	162	177	82.2	66.8	57.3	64.7	65.1	65.1
Rhode Island.....	606	580	570	88.6	99.7	96.5	95.8	101.4	97.7
South Carolina (total).....	557	563	571	45.9	32.9	33.6	34.4	36.9	34.6
White.....	333	324	330	51.9	40.9	39.9	41.4	45.4	40.9
Colored.....	219	239	241	38.5	25.3	27.7	28.0	29.1	29.0
Tennessee (total).....	1,094	1,006	1,021	51.7	46.6	43.2	44.1	46.8	(8)
White.....	905	813	822	53.2	47.8	43.3	44.2	47.1	
Colored.....	189	193	199	47.1	41.9	42.6	43.7	45.3	
Utah.....	250	265	229	67.8	55.1	59.5	52.3	55.1	58.3
Vermont.....	444	399	365	85.7	126.0	113.2	103.4	111.2	118.2
Virginia (total).....	1,299	1,202	1,224	61.9	55.9	52.3	53.9	52.6	56.3
White.....	948	899	904	61.6	58.2	56.0	57.1	54.6	62.2
Colored.....	351	303	320	61.1	50.7	43.9	46.5	47.9	43.0
Washington.....	1,123	1,045	996	77.0	82.1	77.7	75.3	71.9	74.4
Wisconsin.....	2,335	2,285	2,104	78.6	88.2	87.3	81.4	82.6	83.5

¹ Rate not calculated.

² Including the District of Columbia.

³ Not admitted to registration area until a later date.

SICKNESS FREQUENCY AMONG INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYEES.

MORBIDITY AMONG A GROUP OF WAGE EARNERS, JANUARY, 1920, TO JUNE, 1921.¹

Since January, 1920, the Public Health Service has been able to obtain, through the cooperation of a number of manufacturing companies and sick-benefit associations of employees, a considerable

¹ From the Statistical Office, United States Public Health Service. Data collected and tabulated under the supervision of Dean K. Brundage.